

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 13, 16, and 17 are the independent claims.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 7-15 and 17 are allowed. By the present Amendment, Applicant has not amended any of allowed claims 7-15 and 17. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-15 and 17 should remain allowed.

Claims 1-6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Document No. JP 406238906 A1 (Kuronuma et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, and the sensor wiper is formed separately from a nozzle wiper. Independent claim 16 corresponds generally to independent claim 1 and recites similar features in method form.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuronuma et al. does not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned feature of independent claim 1.

Kuronuma et al. relates to an ink-jet recording device and is understood to teach a wiping mechanism 30 which wipes the nozzle surfaces of recording heads 9A-9D and can simultaneously wipe the surface of a paper width detecting sensor 201 to remove dirt therefrom. (Kuronuma et al., Abstract; translated paragraphs [0027] and [0046]; FIGS. 1 and 2). Thus, Kuronuma et al. cannot meet the aforementioned feature of independent claims 1 and 16.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised

by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: November 22, 2004

By: 
Michael E. Kondoudis
Registration No. 42,758

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501